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characterized in that the acrylic acid used as a raw material is a product being obtained by catalytic gas phase oxidation of propylene and/or propane and containing an aldehyde, and further characterized by further comprising the step of subjecting the raw acrylic acid to a strong-alkali treatment followed by the polymerization step.

9. (Amended) A process according to claim 8, wherein the strong-alkali treatment is carried out at a temperature of not lower than 40°C.

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#### REMARKS

The present Amendment revises the original claims to remove the improper multiple dependency of the claims, and to identify the claims by the correct claim number.

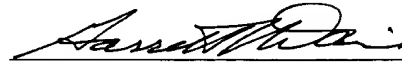
This application was originally filed in a non-English language. Filed concurrently herewith is a verified English translation of the Japanese language specification as originally filed.

Appended hereto is a Substitute Specification to revise the specification to conform to the appropriate format for examination and publication. In particular, the Substitute Specification moves the claims to the end of the specification and inserts appropriate headings. The Substitute Specification does not contain new matter. Also appended hereto is a marked-up

copy of the verified English translation indicating the changes pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.125(b).

Accordingly, Applicants request the Substitute Specification be accepted.

Respectfully submitted,



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